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Office of the Attorney General

March 29, 2021

Cheryl Stevens
Clerk of the Colorado Supreme Court
2 East 14th Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity CLE Requirement for Colorado Attorneys

Dear Ms. Stevens:

As Colorado's Attorney General, I support the proposed amendments to Colorado's professional rules that provide for a separate continuing legal education requirement that can be satisfied by programs addressing equity, diversity, and inclusivity and the mitigation of bias ("EDI CLE"). Tragic events that transpired last summer sparked a national discussion about racial injustice that renewed the call to address long standing inequities in our society. In recognition of our profession's special responsibility to promote equity, access to justice, and the rule of law, leaders in our legal community came together to create the EDI CLE proposal.

The EDI CLE rule change will help all attorneys recognize the inequities and structural issues that contribute to the disproportionate outcomes and mistrust that undermine public confidence in our justice system. Adopting the rule will help modernize Colorado's rules and allow our state to join the growing number of jurisdictions that recognize the need for a greater focus on this set of issues. The proposed rule aligns well with the Department of Law's values and our deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our legal system.

Colorado's diversity is one of our greatest strengths. We proudly celebrate Governor Ralph Carr's decision to refuse to intern Japanese Americans and our state's decision to establish a holiday honoring Martin Luther King before the federal government did so. Because the EDI CLE proposal will help engage and raise important awareness among Colorado attorneys, I support this important proposed change to attorney education.

Sincerely,

Phil Weiser

Attorney General